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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,646	03/06/2002	Senthil Prabakaran	12849-003001	8485
20792	7590	01/14/2005	EXAMINER	
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH, NC 27627			WU, QING YUAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2126	

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

10/092,646

Applicant(s)

PRABAKARAN ET AL.

Examin r

Qing-Yuan Wu

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/3/04, 4/23/04
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. Page 10, lines 4-5- "filer" should read --filter--

The entire specification should be revised.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1, and 3-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, and 3-13 are directed to method steps which can be practiced mentally in conjunction with pen and paper, therefore they are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Specifically, as claimed, it is uncertain what performs each of the claimed method steps. The claimed steps do not define a machine or computer implemented process [see MPEP 2106].

(The examiner suggests applicant to change "method" to "computer implemented method" in the preamble to overcome the outstanding 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. The following terms lacks antecedent basis:

- i. The method – claim 1, line 1.
- ii. The domain tree boundaries, said directory service- claim 1, lines 11 and 15; claim 2, lines 26 and 29.
- iii. The policy data- claim 11.

b. The following claim language is indefinite:

- i. As per claim 1, line 10, it is uncertain what “capable of” means (i.e. does the component have other capabilities? The examiner suggest applicant to replace “capable of” to “for” to overcome the outstanding 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection).
- ii. As per claim 1, lines 7 and 9, it is uncertain what “human-readable form” means (i.e. what’s human-readable and what’s not?)
- iii. As per claim 2, this claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above.

- iv. As to claim 13, it is uncertain whether “back up components” refers to “a component for backing up and restoring a single or plurality of directory service objects” in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boswell, (“Inside Windows 2000 Server”, published 12/22/1999), in view of Sanghvi et al (hereafter Sanghvi) (U.S. PGPub 20020095524A1).

9. As to claim 1, Boswell teaches the invention substantially as claimed including:
providing a component for backing up and restoring a single or plurality of directory service objects [Chap. 11, Backing Up the Directory, pg. 1; Performing Directory Maintenance, pg. 10 section Performing an Authoritative Directory Restoration] (i.e....backing up the registry and the Active Directory...restore Directory operation by soft recovery...restore from backup tape...);

providing a component for delegating security privileges to permit access to directory service objects [Chap. 10, Overview of Directory Security, pg. 13 section Access Rights

Delegation] (i.e.... Windows 2000 uses delegation to assign the right mix of access permissions...select the object types over which the security principal will exercise control...);

providing a component for retrieving data in policy storage format and representing said data in human-readable form [Chap. 16, Managing User Environments with Group Policies, pg. 1, line 5; Chap. 6, Configuring Security Policies, pg. 4 section Group Policy Editor Overview; Fig. 6.3];

providing a component having a graphical user interface including a display capable of displaying policy storage data in human readable form [Chap. 6, Configuring Security Policies, Fig. 6.3] (i.e. Group Policy Console...);

providing a component capable of replicating a single or plurality of directory service objects across the domain tree boundaries of said directory service [Chap. 11, Replication Overview, pg. 5 Intrasite Replication Summary] (i.e. properties in the GC are replicated to every GC server in every domain in the forest).

10. Boswell does not specifically teach providing a component for analyzing the effect a particular setting will have on a particular target represented as a directory service object before the setting is added to said directory service. However, Sanghvi teaches testing policies before applying the policies to the target nodes [Sanghvi, paragraph 46, lines 3-4; 406, Fig. 5]

11. It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have combined the teaching of Boswell with the teaching of Sanghvi because the teaching of Sanghvi would provide an error prevention/detection mechanism that tests the effect of policies before they are actually implemented on the target.

12. Furthermore, Boswell as modified does not specifically teach searching and reporting policy storage data. However, Boswell disclosed a Group Policy console that enables users to find entries arranged in a tree structure [Chap. 6, Configuring Security Policies, pg. 5, lines 1-3; Fig. 6.3].

13. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have included a searching capability for locating a specific policy data in the case where there is a large amount of policy data in the database.

14. As to claim 2, this is a system claim that corresponds to the method claim 1. Therefore, it is rejected for the same reason as claim 1 above.

15. As to claims 3-5, Boswell teaches the invention substantially as claimed including wherein directory service objects include users, computers and printers [Chap. 8, Strategies for Upper-Level Designs, pg. 3 section Functional Overview of Windows 2000 Security Groups, line 8; Chap. 15, Moving Forward, line 3] (i.e.... Active Directory objects that represent security principals, such as users, computers...printer objects...).

16. As to claim 6, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claims 3-5 above (Examiner's interpretation of "a directory service component with a descriptive parameter," as any directory service objects with attributes/properties/settings since the applicant did not preclude nor define this limitation).

17. As to claim 7, Boswell does not specifically teach wherein the back up component facilitates the storage of object settings, links to directory service objects, and security information regarding directory service objects. However, Boswell disclosed backing up the system state files which includes the Active Directory database, NTDS.DIT, and its associated log and checkpoint files, contents of the \SYSVOL directory, etc. [Chap. 11, Backing Up the Directory, pg. 1]. It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have recognized that attributes, information, or settings related to a directory service object have to be backed-up in order for the object to be restore to its previous configuration.

18. As to claim 8, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 1 above.

19. As to claim 9, Boswell teaches the invention substantially as claimed including wherein various levels of security privileges can be delegated [Chap. 10, Overview of Directory Security, pg. 14-17 section Access Rights Delegation, Figs. 10.9-10.11].

20. As to claim 10, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 9 above. In addition, Boswell does not specifically teach wherein the levels of security privileges that can be delegated include the ability to configure only one or a plurality of administrative templates contained in the policy. However, Boswell disclosed modifying administrative templates [Chap. 16, Managing User Environments with Group policies, pg. 15, lines 4-9] and delegating extended rights [Chap. 10, Overview of Directory Security, pg. 16 section Delegating Extended Rights, lines 3-8]. It would have been obvious to one of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made, to have recognized that granular delegation of security privileges can further relieve the burden of the administrator (i.e. assigning some administrative rights to users without granting administrative privileges, as been considered by Boswell) without risking the security of an entire active directory.

21. As to claim 11, Boswell teaches the invention substantially as claimed including wherein the policy data is stored in a database [Chap. 6, Configuring Security Policies, pg. 11] (i.e. Security policies for a local machine are stored in the Security Editor database...).

22. As to claim 12, Boswell teaches the invention substantially as claimed including wherein the database where policy data is stored is the registry [Chap. 6, Configuring Security Policies, pg. 12, lines 6-7].

23. As to claim 13, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claims 3-6 above. (Examiner's interpretation of "back up components," as network objects with back up capabilities since the applicant did not preclude nor define this limitation).

24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qing-Yuan Wu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3776. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

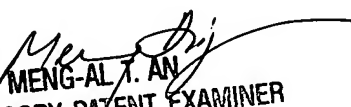
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Qing-Yuan Wu

Examiner

Art Unit 2126


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